



UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

***INTERNATIONAL HYDROLOGICAL PROGRAMME***



***35<sup>th</sup> Session of the IHP Bureau***  
(Paris, 2 – 4 June 2003)

**REPORT ON THE UNESCO-IHE  
INSTITUTE FOR WATER EDUCATION**

**Item 5.6 of the Provisional Agenda**

SUMMARY

This document presents a succinct report on the establishment of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. The Bureau is invited to take note provide recommendations for the agenda of the strategic meeting planned 15 – 19 July 2003 in Delft.

*Decision required: see paragraph 9.*

1. The creation of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, The Netherlands can be considered as an important achievement in strengthening the Water-Education-Training and human capacity building delivery capability of UNESCO. The International Hydrological Programme has supported this process along its almost 4-year long course. Resolution XIV-10, adopted at the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the IHP Intergovernmental Council (2000), was instrumental in the early phase, expressing the dedication of the hydrological services and scientific communities of the Member States to support the Institute. At its 15<sup>th</sup> session (2002), the IHP Intergovernmental Council elected 6 members to serve in the Governing Board of the Institute. The 6 IHP-elected members represent the 6 electoral regions of UNESCO.

2. The six members are:

H.E. Prof. M. Abu Zeid (Arab States)  
Prof. Z. Kaczmarek (Eastern Europe)  
Prof. G. Kelman (Latin America & Caribbean)  
H.E. Prof. R. Ardakanian (Asia)  
H.E. Prof. L. Brito (Africa)  
Prof. A. Zehnder (Western Europe & Northern America)

3. The establishment of the Institute, located in the world-known International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE) in Delft, the Netherlands is based on the respective documents and resolutions 161 EX/10, Item 3.3.2 of the 161<sup>st</sup> session of the Executive Board of UNESCO (May 2001) and document 31 C/47 31 C/Resolution 16 of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the General Conference (November 2001) adopting the Statutes of the Institute. Following these political decisions the Seat Agreement and the Operational Agreement were discussed and formulated by representatives of the Netherlands Government and the respective services of UNESCO. These agreements specify the diplomatic immunities and privileges of the Institute and the details of the basic subsidy provided by the Netherlands Government to the Institute.

4. In addition to the two intergovernmental agreements (see Para 3) UNESCO and the IHE Foundation have concluded the Cooperation Agreement. This document specifies the terms of secondment of the Foundation staff to the Institute as well as guides the management and financial transfers inherent in the operation of the Institute and the Foundation.

5. The length of this process reflects the uniqueness of the endeavor within the entire UN system: to create a UNESCO Institute on the basis of a foundation under a national legal system.

6. These three agreements were signed on 18 March 2003, thus providing the basis to operationalize the Institute under its new legal status. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, on the eve of World Water Day (21 March 2003), the Director-General of UNESCO announced the international launch of the Institute.

7. The 166<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Board of UNESCO (April 2003) approved the Draft Financial Regulations of the Special Account of the Institute.

8. At present the following steps are to be completed prior to the operation of the Institute:

- Appointment of the Rector of IHE and the transfer of this Rector to the position of Director of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education following the option as stipulated by article XIII, paragraph 2 of the Statutes and point 6 of the Explanatory Notes of the Statutes of the Institute document (31 C/47).
- Appointment of the Governing Board of the Institute through the Director-General of UNESCO (6 IHP-elected plus 7 appointed according to article IV of the Statutes).

9. The Director-General decided to invite UNESCO Center Directors, UNESCO Chairholders in the area of water, UNESCO associated directors, network co-ordinators and UN partners active in the area of Water, Education and Capacity Building to participate in a strategic meeting with UNESCO/IHP and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education to explore how to implement the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 and how to contribute to the achievements of the water-related Millennium Development Goals and the WSSD Plan of Implementation. The meeting is foreseen to be held between 15 – 18 July 2003 in Delft.